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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,727	10/23/2003	Satoru Majima	MAJIMA-1	6809
25889	7590	05/07/2004	EXAMINER	
WILLIAM COLLARD COLLARD & ROE, P.C. 1077 NORTHERN BOULEVARD ROSLYN, NY 11576			GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/691,727	MAJIMA, SATORU <i>MA</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alexander D Gilman	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,8,9 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,7 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirano et al.

With regard to claim 1, Hirano et al (US 5,292,261) disclose a connector comprising:

an insulator(A) having a contact receiving portion (1) and a retainer receiving portion (9) that communicate with each other;

a conductive contact (C) inserted into said contact receiving portion from a first direction', and

a retainer (B) inserted into said retainer receiving portion from said first direction for preventing said contact from coming off in a direction opposite to said first direction, said retainer comprising a body portion (4, 6b) and an elastic piece (6a) that is elastically deformable and joined to said body portion, said body portion having an excessive deformation preventing portion (at forward joint portion of 6a and 6b) for preventing excessive deformation of said elastic piece toward said body portion, said elastic piece having a specific lock portion (6a1), said insulator having a specific lock receiving (8a) portion for locking said specific lock portion when said retainer is inserted to a predetermined position of said retainer receiving portion.

With regard to claim 3, Hirano et al disclose that said elastic piece (6a) extending substantially along said first direction to have an extending end joined to said body portion (4).

With regard to claim 5, Hirano et al disclose that said excessive deformation preventing portion(at forward joint portion of 6a and 6b) is projected from said body portion (6b) toward said elastic piece.

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With regard to claim 6, Hirano et al disclose that said retainer(B) is detachably mounted in said insulator (A).

With regard to claim 8, Hirano et al disclose that said specific lock portion (8a) is projected in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction, said contact receiving portion and said retainer receiving portion being adjacent to each other in a third direction perpendicular to said first and second directions.

With regard to claim 9, Hirano et al disclose that said body portion has a particular lock portion (6b) projected in said third direction, said insulator having a particular lock receiving portion for locking said particular lock portion.

With regard to claims 11-12, Hirano et al disclose a primary lock mechanism (11) connected to said insulator and said contact for directly locking said contact with said insulator in said first direction, and a secondary lock mechanism (5) connected to said contact and said retainer for indirectly locking said contact with said insulator through said retainer in said first direction.

With regard to claim 13, Hirano et al disclose that said insulator has a deformable portion (r.n.11 –Fig. 7a, 7b) elastically deformable, said protrusion being formed integral with said deformable portion.

With regard to claim 14, Hirano et al disclose that said retainer has an insert end (5a), said contact having a shoulder portion which engages with said insert end in said first direction, said insert end and said shoulder portion being cooperated with to each another to serve as said secondary lock mechanism.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4, 7, 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the elastic piece being projected from said body portion in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction, said elastic piece being pushed and deformed toward said body portion by an inner wall surface of said retainer receiving portion when said retainer is inserted into said retainer receiving portion (claim 2);

the excessive deformation preventing portion being formed in a position that confronts said elastic piece when said retainer is inserted to the predetermined position of said retainer receiving portion (claim 4);

the specific lock portion being projected outward from an outer surface of an intermediate portion of said elastic piece, said specific lock receiving portion being defined by a through hole formed on the inner wall surface of said retainer receiving portion (claim 7);

the particular lock receiving portion being defined by a through hole formed in a wall portion of said retainer receiving portion (claim 10).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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04/26/2004

Alex Gilman
ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER